

Senators Hit Spy Units On Privacy-Bill Move

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The nation's two top intelligence agencies came under sharp attack on the Senate floor today for seeking exemptions from a proposed law to protect the constitutional rights of government employees.

Sen. Sam D. Ervin Jr., D-N.C., said he could see no practical or policy reasons for granting the unusual request made by the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency.

He was strongly supported by Sen. Roman L. Hruska, R-Neb.

The attack on the CIA came as Ervin disclosed that Senate consideration of the bill approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee was put off at the request of the CIA.

The bill had been scheduled to be taken up during the day. Ervin said the CIA "at the last minute" asked the leadership to postpone its consideration.

In his 13 years in the Senate, Ervin said, such a request, as far as he knew, was "without precedent."

Ervin and Hruska emphasized that the CIA had been invited

but declined to testify on the bill in the last year.

Ervin said the National Security Agency had not joined in the request for postponement of Senate action.

Hruska suggested that the CIA may have sought the delay to "lobby" with members of the Senate for an exception from the general provisions of the bill. Such an action, Hruska said, would not be legal.

Ervin said CIA representatives have been active in consulting with members of the Constitutional Rights subcommittee regarding the measure.

The bill would ban government officials from invading the privacy of employees and prospective employees by questions dealing with their personal and family life, sex, and religion.

Hruska said he hoped the Senate would refuse to grant the exemption and indicated he might join in a move to eliminate an amendment giving the director of the agencies authority to order lie detector tests in some instances of especially sensitive national security.

In a lengthy Senate speech, Ervin reviewed some of the questions the CIA has asked dealing with such matters as sexual relations and said that the agencies want to stand above the law.

"Taken all together," he said, "their arguments for complete exemption suggest only one conclusion—that they want the unmitigated right to kick federal employees around, deny them respect for individual privacy and the basic rights which belong to every American regardless of the mission of his agency."

"The idea that any government agency is entitled to the 'total man' and to knowledge and control of all the details of his personal and community life unrelated to his employment or to law enforcement is more appropriate for totalitarian countries than for a society of free men."

The basic purpose of the bill, Ervin said, is that "a man who works for the federal government sells his services, not his soul."

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